

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 777

To promote industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 1, 2009

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mrs. MURRAY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To promote industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening Employ-  
5       ment Clusters to Organize Regional Success Act of 2009”  
6       or the “SECTORS Act of 2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP GRANT.**

2 Subtitle D of title I of the Workforce Investment Act  
3 of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2911 et seq.) is amended by inserting  
4 after section 173A the following:

5 **“SEC. 173B. INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP GRANT**  
6 **PROGRAM.**

7 “(a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section to  
8 create designated capacity to promote industry or sector  
9 partnerships that lead collaborative planning, resource  
10 alignment, and training efforts across multiple firms for  
11 a range of workers employed or potentially employed in  
12 a targeted industry cluster, in order to encourage industry  
13 growth and competitiveness and to improve worker train-  
14 ing, retention, and advancement in targeted industry clus-  
15 ters. The activities carried out by the partnerships may  
16 include the development of—

17 “(1) immediate strategies for regions and com-  
18 munities to fulfill pressing skilled workforce needs;

19 “(2) long-term plans to grow targeted industry  
20 clusters with better training and a more productive  
21 workforce;

22 “(3) core competencies and competitive advan-  
23 tages for regions and communities undergoing struc-  
24 tural economic redevelopment; and

25 “(4) skill standards, career ladders, job re-  
26 definitions, employer practices, and shared training

1 and support capacities for the targeted industry  
 2 cluster that facilitate the advancement of workers at  
 3 all skill levels.

4 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 “(1) CAREER LADDER.—The term ‘career lad-  
 6 der’ means an identified series of positions, work ex-  
 7 periences, and educational benchmarks or credentials  
 8 that offer occupational and financial advancement  
 9 within a specified career field or related fields over  
 10 time.

11 “(2) ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY.—The term  
 12 ‘economic self-sufficiency’ means, with respect to a  
 13 worker, earning a wage sufficient to support a fam-  
 14 ily adequately over time, based on factors such as—

15 “(A) family size;

16 “(B) the number and ages of children in  
 17 the family;

18 “(C) the cost of living in the worker’s com-  
 19 munity; and

20 “(D) other factors that may vary by re-  
 21 gion.

22 “(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-  
 23 tity’ means—

24 “(A) an industry or sector partnership; or

25 “(B) an eligible State agency.

1           “(4) ELIGIBLE STATE AGENCY.—The term ‘eli-  
 2           gible State agency’ means a State agency designated  
 3           by the Governor of the State for the purposes of the  
 4           grant program under this section.

5           “(5) HIGH-PRIORITY OCCUPATION.—The term  
 6           ‘high-priority occupation’ means an occupation  
 7           that—

8                   “(A) has a significant presence in an in-  
 9                   dustry cluster;

10                   “(B) is in demand by employers;

11                   “(C) pays family-sustaining wages that en-  
 12                   able workers to achieve economic self-suffi-  
 13                   ciency, or can reasonably be expected to lead to  
 14                   such wages;

15                   “(D) has a documented career ladder; and

16                   “(E) has a significant impact on a region’s  
 17                   economic development strategy.

18           “(6) INDUSTRY CLUSTER.—The term ‘industry  
 19           cluster’ means a concentration of interconnected  
 20           businesses, suppliers, research and development enti-  
 21           ties, education and training providers, and associ-  
 22           ated institutions in a particular field that are linked  
 23           by common workforce needs.

1 “(7) INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP.—

2 The term ‘industry or sector partnership’ means a  
3 workforce collaborative that—

4 “(A) organizes key stakeholders in a tar-  
5 geted industry cluster into a working group  
6 that focuses on the shared goals and human re-  
7 sources needs of a targeted industry cluster and  
8 that includes, at the appropriate stage of devel-  
9 opment of the partnership—

10 “(i) representatives (including work-  
11 ers) of multiple firms or employers in a  
12 targeted industry cluster, including small-  
13 and medium-sized employers when prac-  
14 ticable;

15 “(ii) 1 or more representatives of a  
16 recognized State labor organization or cen-  
17 tral labor council, or other labor represent-  
18 atives as determined appropriate by the  
19 Secretary;

20 “(iii) 1 or more representatives of a  
21 local board;

22 “(iv) 1 or more representatives of a  
23 postsecondary educational institution or  
24 other training provider; and

1 “(v) 1 or more representatives of a  
 2 State workforce agency or other entity pro-  
 3 viding employment services; and

4 “(B) may include representatives of—

5 “(i) State or local government;

6 “(ii) State or local economic develop-  
 7 ment agencies;

8 “(iii) other State or local agencies;

9 “(iv) business or trade associations;

10 “(v) official economic development or-  
 11 ganizations;

12 “(vi) community-based organizations;

13 “(vii) philanthropic organizations;

14 “(viii) industry associations; and

15 “(ix) other organizations, as deter-  
 16 mined necessary by the members com-  
 17 prising the industry or sector partnership.

18 “(8) TARGETED INDUSTRY CLUSTER.—The  
 19 term ‘targeted industry cluster’ means an industry  
 20 cluster that has—

21 “(A) significant current or potential eco-  
 22 nomic impact in a local or regional area;

23 “(B) immediate workforce development  
 24 needs; and

1                   “(C) documented opportunities for career  
2                   advancement.

3                   “(c) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

4                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appro-  
5                   priated under subsection (i), the Secretary shall  
6                   award, on a competitive basis, planning grants de-  
7                   scribed in paragraph (3) and implementation grants  
8                   described in paragraph (4) to eligible entities, to en-  
9                   able the eligible entities to plan and implement, re-  
10                  spectively, the eligible entities’ strategic objectives in  
11                  accordance with subsection (f).

12                  “(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—

13                  “(A) PLANNING GRANTS.—A planning  
14                  grant awarded under paragraph (3) shall not  
15                  exceed \$250,000.

16                  “(B) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—An im-  
17                  plementation grant awarded under paragraph  
18                  (4)(A) shall not exceed a total of \$2,500,000  
19                  for a 3-year period.

20                  “(C) RENEWAL GRANTS.—A renewal grant  
21                  awarded under paragraph (4)(C) shall not ex-  
22                  ceed a total of \$1,500,000 for a 3-year period.

23                  “(3) PLANNING GRANTS.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may  
2           award a planning grant under this section to an  
3           eligible entity that—

4                   “(i) is a newly formed industry or sec-  
5                   tor partnership; and

6                   “(ii) has not received a grant under  
7                   this section.

8           “(B) DURATION.—A planning grant shall  
9           be for a duration of 1 year.

10          “(4) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—

11           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may  
12           award an implementation grant under this sec-  
13           tion to—

14                   “(i) an eligible entity that has already  
15                   received a planning grant under this sec-  
16                   tion; or

17                   “(ii) an eligible entity that is an es-  
18                   tablished industry or sector partnership.

19           “(B) DURATION.—An implementation  
20           grant shall be for a duration of not more than  
21           3 years, and may be renewed in accordance  
22           with subparagraph (C).

23           “(C) RENEWAL.—The Secretary may  
24           renew an implementation grant for not more  
25           than 3 years. A renewal of such grant shall be



1 subject to the requirements of this section, ex-  
 2 cept that the Secretary shall—

3 “(i) prioritize renewals to eligible enti-  
 4 ties that can demonstrate the long-term  
 5 sustainability of an industry or sector part-  
 6 nership funded under this section;

7 “(ii) as a condition of renewing the  
 8 grant, and notwithstanding subparagraph  
 9 (D), decrease the amount of the Federal  
 10 share and increase the amount of the non-  
 11 Federal share required for the grant,  
 12 which must include at least a 25 percent  
 13 cash match from the State, the industry  
 14 cluster, or some combination thereof; and

15 “(iii) require assurances that the eligi-  
 16 ble entity will leverage, each year, addi-  
 17 tional funding sources in accordance with  
 18 subparagraph (D)(ii) than the eligible enti-  
 19 ty provided for the preceding year of the  
 20 grant.

21 “(D) FEDERAL AND NON-FEDERAL  
 22 SHARE.—

23 “(i) FEDERAL SHARE.—Except as  
 24 provided in subparagraph (C)(ii), the Fed-

1                   eral share of an implementation grant  
2                   under this section shall be—

3                               “(I) 90 percent of the costs of  
4                               the activities described in subsection  
5                               (f), in the first year of the grant;

6                               “(II) 80 percent of such costs in  
7                               the second year of the grant; and

8                               “(III) 70 percent of such costs in  
9                               the third year of the grant.

10                              “(ii) NON-FEDERAL.—The non-Fed-  
11                              eral share of an implementation grant  
12                              under this section may be in cash or in-  
13                              kind, and may come from State, local, phil-  
14                              anthropic, private, or other sources.

15                              “(5) FISCAL AGENT.—Each eligible entity re-  
16                              ceiving a grant under this section that is an industry  
17                              or sector partnership shall designate an entity in the  
18                              partnership as the fiscal agent for purposes of this  
19                              grant.

20                              “(6) USE OF GRANT FUNDS DURING GRANT PE-  
21                              RIODS.—An eligible entity receiving grant funds  
22                              under a planning grant, implementation grant, or a  
23                              renewal grant under this section shall expend grant  
24                              funds or obligate grant funds to be expended by the  
25                              last day of the grant period.

1 “(d) APPLICATION PROCESS.—

2 “(1) IDENTIFICATION OF A TARGETED INDUS-  
3 TRY CLUSTER.—In order to qualify for a grant  
4 under this section, an eligible entity shall identify a  
5 targeted industry cluster that could benefit from  
6 such grant by—

7 “(A) working with businesses, industry as-  
8 sociations and organizations, labor organiza-  
9 tions, State boards, local boards, economic de-  
10 velopment agencies, and other organizations  
11 that the eligible entity determines necessary, to  
12 identify an appropriate targeted industry clus-  
13 ter based on criteria that include, at a min-  
14 imum—

15 “(i) data showing the competitiveness  
16 of the industry cluster;

17 “(ii) the importance of the industry  
18 cluster to the economic growth of the area  
19 served by the eligible entity;

20 “(iii) the identification of supply and  
21 distribution chains within the industry  
22 cluster; and

23 “(iv) research studies on industry  
24 clusters; and

1 “(B) working with appropriate employment  
2 agencies, local boards, economic development  
3 agencies, community organizations, and other  
4 organizations that the eligible entity determines  
5 necessary, to ensure that the targeted industry  
6 cluster identified under subparagraph (A)  
7 should be targeted for investment, based pri-  
8 marily on the following criteria:

9 “(i) Demonstrated demand for job  
10 growth.

11 “(ii) Measurable evidence of competi-  
12 tiveness.

13 “(iii) Employment base.

14 “(iv) Wages and benefits.

15 “(v) Demonstrated importance of the  
16 targeted industry cluster to the area’s  
17 economy.

18 “(vi) Workforce development needs of  
19 the area surrounding the targeted industry  
20 cluster.

21 “(2) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity desiring  
22 to receive a grant under this section shall submit an  
23 application to the Secretary at such time, in such  
24 manner, and containing such information as the Sec-  
25 retary may require. An application submitted under

1       this paragraph shall contain, at a minimum, the fol-  
2       lowing:

3               “(A) A description of the eligible entity,  
4               evidence of the eligible entity’s capacity to carry  
5               out activities in support of the strategic objec-  
6               tives identified in the application under sub-  
7               paragraph (D), and, if the eligible entity is an  
8               industry or sector partnership, a description of  
9               the expected participation and responsibilities of  
10              each of the mandatory partners described in  
11              subsection (b)(8)(A).

12              “(B) A description of the targeted industry  
13              cluster for which the eligible entity intends to  
14              carry out activities through a grant under this  
15              section, and a description of how such targeted  
16              industry cluster was identified in accordance  
17              with paragraph (1).

18              “(C) A description of the workers that will  
19              be targeted or recruited by the partnership, in-  
20              cluding an analysis of the existing labor market,  
21              a description of potential barriers to employ-  
22              ment for targeted workers, and a description of  
23              strategies that will be employed to help workers  
24              overcome such barriers.

1           “(D) A description of the strategic objec-  
2           tives that the eligible entity intends to carry out  
3           for the targeted industry cluster, which objec-  
4           tives shall include—

5                   “(i) recruiting key stakeholders in the  
6                   targeted industry cluster, such as busi-  
7                   nesses and employers, labor organizations,  
8                   industry associations, local boards, State  
9                   boards, and education and training pro-  
10                  viders, and regularly convening the stake-  
11                  holders in a collaborative structure that  
12                  supports the sharing of information, ideas,  
13                  and challenges common to the targeted in-  
14                  dustry cluster;

15                  “(ii) identifying the shared training  
16                  needs of multiple businesses, especially  
17                  skill gaps critical to competitiveness and  
18                  innovation in the targeted industry cluster;

19                  “(iii) facilitating economies of scale by  
20                  aggregating training and education needs  
21                  of multiple employers in the targeted in-  
22                  dustry cluster;

23                  “(iv) helping postsecondary edu-  
24                  cational institutions, training institutions,  
25                  and registered apprenticeship programs

1 align curricula, entrance requirements, and  
2 programs to industry demand, particularly  
3 for higher skill, high-priority occupations  
4 validated by the industry;

5 “(v) ensuring that the State agency  
6 carrying out the State program under the  
7 Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.),  
8 including staff of the agency that provide  
9 services under such Act, shall inform re-  
10 cipients of unemployment insurance and  
11 trade adjustment assistance under chapter  
12 2 or 6 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974  
13 (19 U.S.C. 2271 et seq., 2401 et seq.) of  
14 the job and training opportunities that  
15 may result from the implementation of this  
16 grant;

17 “(vi) informing and collaborating with  
18 organizations such as youth councils, busi-  
19 ness-education partnerships, registered ap-  
20 prenticeship programs, secondary schools,  
21 and postsecondary educational institutions,  
22 and with parents and career counselors, for  
23 the purpose of addressing the challenges of  
24 connecting disadvantaged adults, as de-  
25 fined in section 132(b)(1)(B)(v), and dis-

1 advantaged youth, as defined in section  
2 127(b)(2), to careers;

3 “(vii) helping companies in the tar-  
4 geted industry cluster identify, and work  
5 together to address, common organiza-  
6 tional and human resources challenges,  
7 such as—

8 “(I) recruiting new workers;

9 “(II) developing and imple-  
10 menting effective workplace practices;

11 “(III) retaining dislocated and  
12 incumbent workers;

13 “(IV) implementing a high-per-  
14 formance work organization;

15 “(V) recruiting and retaining  
16 women in nontraditional occupations;

17 “(VI) adopting new technologies;  
18 and

19 “(VII) fostering experiential and  
20 contextualized on-the-job learning;

21 “(viii) developing and strengthening  
22 career ladders within and across companies  
23 (in cooperation with labor organizations if  
24 the labor organizations represent employ-  
25 ees engaged in similar work in the industry



1 cluster), in order to enable dislocated, in-  
2 cumbent and entry-level workers to im-  
3 prove skills and advance to higher-wage  
4 jobs;

5 “(ix) improving job quality through  
6 improving wages, benefits, and working  
7 conditions;

8 “(x) helping partner companies in in-  
9 dustry or sector partnerships to attract po-  
10 tential employees from a diverse job seeker  
11 base, including individuals with barriers to  
12 employment (such as job seekers who are  
13 low-income, youth, older workers, or indi-  
14 viduals who have completed a term of im-  
15 prisonment), by identifying such barriers  
16 through analysis of the existing labor mar-  
17 ket and implementing strategies to help  
18 such workers overcome such barriers; and

19 “(xi) strengthening connections  
20 among businesses in the targeted industry  
21 cluster, leading to cooperation beyond  
22 workforce issues that will improve competi-  
23 tiveness and job quality, such as joint pur-  
24 chasing, market research, or centers for  
25 technology and innovation.

1           “(E) A description of the manner in which  
 2           the eligible entity intends to make sustainable  
 3           progress toward the strategic objectives de-  
 4           scribed in subparagraph (D).

5           “(F) Performance measures, including  
 6           quantifiable interim performance benchmarks,  
 7           for measuring progress toward the strategic ob-  
 8           jectives. Such measures shall consider, at a  
 9           minimum, the benefits provided by the grant  
 10          activities funded under this section for—

11           “(i) workers employed in the targeted  
 12          industry cluster, disaggregated by gender  
 13          and race, including—

14           “(I) the number of workers re-  
 15          ceiving portable industry-recognized  
 16          credentials;

17           “(II) the number of workers with  
 18          increased wages, the percentage of  
 19          workers with increased wages, and the  
 20          average wage increase; and

21           “(III) for dislocated or non-  
 22          incumbent workers, the number of  
 23          workers placed in sector-related jobs;  
 24          and

1 “(ii) firms and industries in the tar-  
2 geted industry cluster, including—

3 “(I) the creation or updating of  
4 an industry plan to meet current and  
5 future workforce demand;

6 “(II) the creation or updating of  
7 published industry-wide skill stand-  
8 ards or career pathways;

9 “(III) the creation or updating of  
10 portable, industry-recognized creden-  
11 tials, or where there is not such a cre-  
12 dential, the creation or updating of a  
13 training curriculum that can lead to  
14 the development of such a credential;

15 “(IV) in the case of an eligible  
16 entity that is an industry or sector  
17 partnership, the number of firms, and  
18 the percentage of the local industry,  
19 participating in the industry or sector  
20 partnership; and

21 “(V) the number of firms, and  
22 the percentage of the local industry,  
23 receiving workers or services through  
24 the grant funded under this section.

1           “(G) A timeline for achieving progress to-  
2           ward the strategic objectives.

3           “(H) In the case of an eligible entity desir-  
4           ing an implementation grant under this section,  
5           an assurance that the eligible entity will lever-  
6           age other funding sources, in addition to the  
7           amount required for the non-Federal share  
8           under subsection (c)(4)(D), to provide training  
9           or supportive services to workers under the  
10          grant program. Such additional funding sources  
11          may include—

12               “(i) funding under this title used for  
13               such training and supportive services;

14               “(ii) funding under the Adult Edu-  
15               cation and Family Literacy Act of 1998  
16               (20 U.S.C. 9201 et seq.);

17               “(iii) funding under chapter 2 or 6 of  
18               title II of the Trade Act of 1974 (19  
19               U.S.C. 2271 et seq.);

20               “(iv) economic development funding;

21               “(v) employer contributions to train-  
22               ing initiatives; or

23               “(vi) providing employees with em-  
24               ployee release time for such training or  
25               supportive services.

1 “(e) AWARD BASIS.—

2 “(1) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The Sec-  
3 retary shall award grants under this section in a  
4 manner to ensure geographic diversity.

5 “(2) PRIORITIES.—In awarding grants under  
6 this section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligi-  
7 ble entities that—

8 “(A) work with employers within a tar-  
9 geted industry cluster to retain and expand em-  
10 ployment in high wage, high growth areas;

11 “(B) focus on helping workers move to-  
12 ward economic self-sufficiency and ensuring the  
13 workers have access to adequate supportive  
14 services;

15 “(C) address the needs of firms with lim-  
16 ited human resources or in-house training ca-  
17 pacity, including small- and medium-sized  
18 firms; and

19 “(D) coordinate with entities carrying  
20 out—

21 “(i) State and local workforce invest-  
22 ment activities, including the one-stop de-  
23 livery system;

1 “(ii) adult secondary education, career  
 2 and technical education, and postsecondary  
 3 education; and

4 “(iii) economic development activities.

5 “(f) ACTIVITIES.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity receiving  
 7 a grant under this section shall carry out the activi-  
 8 ties necessary to meet the strategic objectives de-  
 9 scribed in the entity’s application in a manner  
 10 that—

11 “(A) integrates services and funding  
 12 sources in a way that enhances the effectiveness  
 13 of the activities; and

14 “(B) uses grant funds awarded under this  
 15 section efficiently.

16 “(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—An eligible enti-  
 17 ty may retain a portion of a grant awarded under  
 18 this section for a fiscal year to carry out the admin-  
 19 istration of this section in an amount not to exceed  
 20 10 percent of the grant amount.

21 “(g) EVALUATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS.—

22 “(1) ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT AND EVALUA-  
 23 TION.—Not later than 1 year after receiving a grant  
 24 under this section, and annually thereafter for the  
 25 duration of the grant, an eligible entity shall—

1           “(A) report to the Secretary, and to the  
 2           Governor of the State that the eligible entity  
 3           serves, on the activities funded pursuant to a  
 4           grant under this section; and

5           “(B) evaluate the progress the eligible enti-  
 6           ty has made toward the strategic objectives  
 7           identified in the application under subsection  
 8           (d)(2)(D), and measure the progress using the  
 9           performance measures identified in the applica-  
 10          tion under subsection (d)(2)(F).

11          “(2) REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—An eligible  
 12          entity receiving a grant under this section shall sub-  
 13          mit to the Secretary a report containing the results  
 14          of the evaluation described in paragraph (1)(B) at  
 15          such time and in such manner as the Secretary may  
 16          require.

17          “(h) ADMINISTRATION BY THE SECRETARY.—

18           “(1) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary  
 19           may retain not more than 10 percent of the funds  
 20           appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appro-  
 21           priations under subsection (i) for each fiscal year to  
 22           administer this section.

23           “(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND OVER-  
 24           SIGHT.—The Secretary shall provide technical assist-  
 25           ance and oversight to assist the eligible State and

1 local agencies or eligible entities in applying for and  
2 administering grants awarded under this section.  
3 The Secretary shall also provide technical assistance  
4 to eligible entities in the form of conferences and  
5 through the collection and dissemination of informa-  
6 tion on best practices developed by eligible partner-  
7 ships. The Secretary may award a grant or contract  
8 to 1 or more national or State organizations to pro-  
9 vide technical assistance to foster the planning, for-  
10 mation, and implementation of industry cluster part-  
11 nerships.

12 “(3) PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—The Sec-  
13 retary shall issue a range of performance measures,  
14 with quantifiable benchmarks, and methodologies  
15 that eligible entities may use to evaluate the effec-  
16 tiveness of each type of activity in making progress  
17 toward the strategic objectives described in sub-  
18 section (d)(2)(D). Such measures shall consider the  
19 benefits of the industry or sector partnership and its  
20 activities for workers, firms, industries, and commu-  
21 nities.

22 “(4) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The  
23 Secretary shall—

24 “(A) coordinate the annual review of each  
25 eligible entity receiving a grant under this sec-



1           tion and produce an overview report that, at a  
2           minimum, includes—

3                   “(i) the critical learning of each in-  
4           dustry or sector partnership, such as—

5                           “(I) the training that was most  
6                           effective;

7                           “(II) the human resource chal-  
8                           lenges that were most common;

9                           “(III) how technology is changing  
10           the targeted industry cluster; and

11                           “(IV) the changes that may im-  
12           pact the targeted industry cluster over  
13           the next 5 years; and

14                   “(ii) a description of what eligible en-  
15           tities serving similar targeted industry  
16           clusters consider exemplary practices, such  
17           as—

18                           “(I) how to work effectively with  
19           postsecondary educational institutions;

20                           “(II) the use of internships;

21                           “(III) coordinating with appren-  
22           ticeships and cooperative education  
23           programs;

- 1                   “(IV) how to work effectively  
2 with schools providing vocational edu-  
3 cation;  
4                   “(V) how to work effectively with  
5 adult populations, including—  
6                   “(aa) dislocated workers;  
7                   “(bb) women in nontradi-  
8 tional occupations; and  
9                   “(cc) individuals with bar-  
10 riers to employment, such as job  
11 seekers who—  
12                   “(AA) are economically  
13 disadvantaged;  
14                   “(BB) have limited  
15 English proficiency;  
16                   “(CC) require remedial  
17 education;  
18                   “(DD) are older work-  
19 ers;  
20                   “(EE) are individuals  
21 with disabilities;  
22                   “(FF) are veterans;  
23                   “(GG) are individuals  
24 who have completed a sen-

1 tence for a criminal offense;

2 and

3 “(HH) have other bar-

4 riers to employment;

5 “(VI) employer practices that are

6 most effective;

7 “(VII) the types of training that

8 are most effective; and

9 “(VIII) other areas where indus-

10 try or sector partnerships can assist

11 each other;

12 “(B) make resource materials, including all

13 reports published and all data collected under

14 this section, available on the Internet; and

15 “(C) conduct conferences and seminars

16 to—

17 “(i) disseminate information on best

18 practices developed by eligible entities re-

19 ceiving a grant under this section; and

20 “(ii) provide information to the com-

21 munities of eligible entities.

22 “(5) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after

23 the date of enactment of the Strengthening Employ-

24 ment Clusters to Organize Regional Success Act of

25 2009, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall

1 transmit a report to Congress on the industry or  
 2 sector partnership grant program established by this  
 3 section. The report shall include a description of—

4 “(A) the eligible entities receiving funding;

5 “(B) the activities carried out by the eligi-  
 6 ble entities;

7 “(C) how the eligible entities were selected  
 8 to receive funding under this section; and

9 “(D) an assessment of the results achieved  
 10 by the grant program including findings from  
 11 the annual reviews described in paragraph  
 12 (4)(A).

13 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be  
 15 appropriated to carry out this section such sums as  
 16 may be necessary for fiscal year 2010 and for each  
 17 succeeding fiscal year.

18 “(2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated  
 19 pursuant to the authorization of appropriations  
 20 under paragraph (1) for the fiscal year shall remain  
 21 available until the end of the second fiscal year fol-  
 22 lowing the fiscal year in which such amounts were  
 23 first appropriated.”.

1 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL AGENCY COORDINATION.**

2 (a) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.—The head of each  
3 Federal department or agency whose funding, regulations,  
4 or other policies impact workers shall cooperate with the  
5 Secretary of Labor to—

6 (1) maintain up-to-date information on jobs,  
7 wages, benefits, skills, and careers of workers im-  
8 pacted by the actions of such agency or department;

9 (2) develop and implement policies that would  
10 improve the jobs and careers of workers impacted by  
11 the actions of such agency or department; and

12 (3) report the department or agency’s job cre-  
13 ation and economic development strategies to the  
14 Secretary.

15 (b) ALIGNMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provi-  
16 sion of law, the Secretary and the heads of other Federal  
17 departments or agencies shall work together to align exist-  
18 ing education and training programs with the dem-  
19 onstrated needs of industry or sector partnerships, as de-  
20 fined in section 173B(b) of the Workforce Investment Act.  
21 These collaborative efforts shall include the following:

22 (1) DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.—The Sec-  
23 retary of Commerce shall advise the Secretary of  
24 Labor of the Department of Commerce’s workforce  
25 and economic development strategies, programs, and  
26 initiatives.

1           (2) JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.—The Attorney  
2   General shall—

3           (A) align federally funded programs offer-  
4   ing training for inmates with industry clusters  
5   (as defined in section 173B(b) of the Workforce  
6   Investment Act) and high-priority occupations,  
7   and annually review these training programs to  
8   assure that the training programs prepare indi-  
9   viduals for high-priority occupations; and

10          (B) align federally funded reentry pro-  
11   grams to take advantage of information and ca-  
12   reer opportunities provided by industry and sec-  
13   tor partnerships.

14          (3) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.—The Sec-  
15   retary of Education shall—

16          (A) develop and support career ladders for  
17   high-priority occupations critical to targeted in-  
18   dustry clusters served by a grant under section  
19   173B of the Workforce Investment Act;

20          (B) develop and support innovative pro-  
21   grams to address literacy (including English as  
22   a second language) and numeracy short-  
23   comings, especially in those occupations critical  
24   to such targeted industry clusters;

1 (C) develop and support programs and  
2 strategies to reduce barriers to adult education;

3 (D) develop and support career education  
4 initiatives in middle and high schools; and

5 (E) support initiatives to develop industry-  
6 recognized credentials and new credit-bearing  
7 programs in public and private postsecondary  
8 educational institutions, especially in occupa-  
9 tions critical to such targeted industry clusters.

10 (4) DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN  
11 SERVICES.—The Secretary of Health and Human  
12 Services shall—

13 (A) develop and support innovative pro-  
14 grams that connect qualified individuals receiv-  
15 ing assistance under the State temporary assist-  
16 ance for needy families program funded under  
17 part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42  
18 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) with employment opportuni-  
19 ties in the targeted industry clusters served by  
20 a grant under section 173B of the Workforce  
21 Investment Act;

22 (B) develop and support strategies to pre-  
23 pare individuals receiving assistance under the  
24 State temporary assistance for needy families  
25 programs funded under part A of title IV of the

1 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) for  
2 success in postsecondary education and training  
3 programs; and

4 (C) develop and support career education  
5 initiatives that provide such individuals with in-  
6 formation to guide the clients' education and  
7 training plans.

○